

THE OCALLEAN ENSIGN

Published Every Other Thursday by
the Student Body of the
OCALA HIGH SCHOOL

5 Cents Per Copy. 75 Cents Per Year

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1918

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How about having some flowers and a school garden around our High School? It would certainly improve the looks of things.

Now that the lively-lively of exams are over, the teachers and students are greatly relieved and have settled down to their daily work again.

Everyone be sure and notice the fuel box in the hall. Do not fail to drop a joke, local, or something of material for the Ensign in it every time you pass.

Students! Do not forget to stand by those who advertise in the Ensign. Be sure that you do your trading with them. It is your duty to patronize those who support our paper.

Now that the literary society has been organized we are looking forward to the orations or declamations debates, readings and musical selections with which the members of the society will be entertained.

Go back to the simple life, be contented with simple food, simple pleasures, simple clothes. Work hard, pray hard, play hard. Work, eat, recreate and sleep. Do it courageously. We have a victory to win.—Hoover.

How melancholy Chas. Carnahan looked Tuesday morning! Evidently the letter that he received Monday had some peculiar effect on him. Here's hoping that the ones he receives in the future will be few, if this is to be the outcome.

It is true that Uncle Sam is taking all the scientists possible. But the country will not be entirely without, for Professor Henderson has some promising science students; and as there are quite a number of girls, perhaps the country will not be entirely deprived of science teachers.

Students! How do you spend your Saturdays? that you can not do enough to earn twenty-five in your ambition and determination to do good for yourselves? Think how much good you could do your government by earning twenty-five cents every Saturday and investing it in Thrift Stamps! At the same time you have a saving account started. Now have "pep" enough in you, exert your will power, boost your school by showing how a patriotic spirit prevails.

The High School students have formed, and are still forming a bad habit. Continually they get permission to speak. And who could guess what their purpose is in going over to their neighbor's desk so often? It is terrible to relate, nevertheless, it is true: They go in quest of paper, pencil, pen, ink or some such little necessity that is used in school work. Students, where is your honor? Do you realize what you are doing? It is not merely the value of the material that you borrow but it is the injustice that you do yourself by getting into the habit. Enough paper to do a long time costs but little. Youth is the time for formation of habits. Are yours going to be good, or are you going to continue to practice that awful habit of borrowing all through your life? If everyone borrows where are the lenders to be found? Let us hope that every student will now cease to trouble his fellow-student, and at the same time preserve his honor!

ATHLETICS IN OUR SCHOOLS

There once existed, and there may exist yet, in certain benighted parts of the north, the mistaken idea that athletics is not in favor in southern schools, the basis for the thought being the erroneous opinion that our southern climate is discouraging to physical exertion. It is, indeed, reported that a certain Boston philanthropist of large brain but ill-developed body, and a consequent antipathy for athletic contests generously endowed a certain southern college, because, he said, as the weather was too hot for young men to be out on the diamond and gridiron, they would be able to give a becoming amount of time to their studies.

Florida schools of a quarter of a century ago might have given some support to the idea, not on account of the climate, but because it had not occurred to the scholars to become sufficiently interested in sports to follow them in an organized manner. Also, the older generation of teachers was not interested in athletics, and some of the mossbacks actually discouraged them.

In these later years, however, athletics have come into their own in the south, the pupils taking full interest in them and the teachers with few exceptions realizing that sports are an aid instead of a drawback to education.

Football is the principal school game, partly for the reason that it has been for centuries the favorite in England, whence it was imported to this country, and partly because the baseball season is over before school-days begin, and does not well begin until schooldays are over, the pupils are too busy with their studies of the last few weeks to try to excel on the diamond.

Football, however, is a boys' game; the girls have never taken to it; in fact, it is only of late years that girls have taken part in athletics. It has not been long ago that a girl who took part in any outdoor game except tennis and croquet was considered a tomboy, if not a rowdy. This generation, however, is wiser and more lively, and is awake to the fact that a healthy body to keep a healthy mind in is the right of a girl as well as a boy.

Basketball is becoming the favorite game of school girl teams. It is to girls what football is to boys, and establishes the fact that a woman is not the "weaker vessel," for it requires as much skill and activity as football, and if there are not as many accidents in playing it as there is in the so-called rougher game it is because girls are as a rule more deft in their movements than boys.

Basket ball is an ancient and honorable game. It is of Celtic origin, old-time stories of Scotch, Welsh and Irish kings and chiefs showing that it was often played in their courts in the winter time, when weather was too inclement for outdoor sports.

Basket ball among the South Florida schools bids fair to become as well organized as football. The high schools in particular in this part of the state have taken so much interest in it that it has become the object of a championship, and the ever-growing circle of contestants promises in time to take in every school that is a school.

Ocala's interest in basket ball was established a few years ago by the famous "Wildcats," a team of girls who had all the activity tho' not the ferocity of the animal whose name they had adopted. They played against the leading teams of the state, and never lost a game.

Their successors, made up mostly of their members, was the Ocala Girls' High School Team. This team last year made an enviable record, meeting teams from Gainesville, Orlando, Sanford and other places and always winning.

With the opening of this school term, the team re-organized. It has had a larger proportion of new players than the team of last year and has not had as good fortune. It has lost two games, one to Gainesville and one to Sanford, tho' in each case it played a splendid game and missed victory by a narrow margin. The two defeats have put the members on their best mettle, and they have solemnly vowed it shall not happen again.

The team leaves tomorrow morning for Sanford, for a game with the high school team of that city, the most pronounced aspirant for the state championship. From Sanford, the team will go next day to Orlando, where it will meet the high school team of that town, for a game before returning home. Ocala defeated both Sanford and Orlando last year.

Our girls will be at a disadvantage in playing with Sanford, as they will be wearied by the long auto trip, but they believe they have the high heart and vim to overcome this handicap.

Miss Boyd in spelling class: "Can anyone tell me what valor means?"
Whitner: "Isn't it a bird?"

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CURRENT HISTORY

Lizard Squirts Blood From Eyes

We have about fourteen species of horned lizards in this country, says a writer in Popular Science Monthly. Some of their habits are extremely remarkable, but none more so than the ability to send at will a fine jet of blood from either eye. The fact is rarely touched on in literature and the average reader of the life history of our animals has never heard of this remarkable habit.

Blood squirting is generally indulged in when the lizard is laboring under certain states of excitement. The attack comes on suddenly at a time when you have the lizard in your grasp. It will suddenly stiffen its neck and throw the head upward, as the eyes bulge from their socket. In another second you hear a peculiar hissing sound followed by the finest imaginable jet of fine blood from one or the other of its eyes. With such a force is this squirted that the tiny stream lasting a couple of seconds may be thrown a distance of five feet.

A Wonderful Invention

Garabel T. H. Giragossian, an American who came to the United States in 1891, claims to have discovered an engine that will furnish free energy. He claims that with it autos may be driven, a battleship driven without fuel, airplanes can be made to carry thousands of pounds of munitions, the speed of steam engines doubled, electricity supplied and nitrate produced.

He refuses to go into detail about his wonderful discovery, but says it is a new principal of force to be utilized in his engines.

Congress has become interested enough to have it examined by the house committee on patents.

Mr. Giragossian has been working on this invention for years, and has several times tried to get congress to make an appropriation, but was unable to get them interested until recently. If his invention is found to be practical the United States will be allowed to have the use of it free of charge.

CRITICISM AS IT IS USED

There is abroad in all parts of the world the wrong conception of criticism; a conception, which, nevertheless, appeals strongly to us because of our self-esteem. The ambiguity of the verb "to criticize" in our language is responsible for the misconception. We speak of a certain person as being "critical," having in mind all the time the adverse criticism from a personal viewpoint.

Although this is not a true criticism, we have to confess that it has always appealed strongly to us, because of so much of the egotism in us. All our lives we have longed to be this kind of critic. There are so many things going on wrong in the world, that we feel sure could be altered, if our criticism were universally accepted and practiced. From everywhere we look, how easy it seems to select the faults and wrongs, and to suggest the changes necessary!

As our childish passion grows off with years, let us throw off that wrong conception of criticism and do that which is right; let us give no consideration, whatever, to the wholly bad, the true critic never does this. If an article is poorly constructed and contains no thought, there is nothing about it to be criticised. There is nothing in it to know, and since there is nothing to know, there is nothing that can be propagated.

Now, let us welcome all honest criticisms, and may it be our one desire to see ourselves from an impersonal viewpoint, which only an outsider can give. We invite the aid of all in securing for us an improvement. Criticise us frankly and honestly.

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